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Agenda item 112

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Report of the Third Committee (Part I)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed Yousif MOHAMED (Sudan)

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled:

"Human rights questions:

"(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

"(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

"(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action."

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

* The report of the Committee on agenda item 112 will be issued in six parts under the symbol A/50/635 and Add.1-5.

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2. At its 41st plenary meeting, on 26 October 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session an additional sub-item to item 112 entitled "(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 27 January 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/76);

(b) Letter dated 10 February 1995 from the Permanent Representatives of Kazakstan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/83);

(c) Letter dated 28 March 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/130);

(d) Letter dated 4 April 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/131);

(e) Letter dated 13 April 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/138-S/1995/299);

(f) Letter dated 12 April 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/139);

(g) Letter dated 27 April 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/169-S/1995/343);

(h) Letter dated 8 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Delhi Declaration issued at the eighth meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, held at New Delhi from 2 to 4 May 1995 (A/50/215-S/1995/475);

(i) Letter dated 19 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the summit meeting of the group of seven major industrialized countries, held at Halifax, Canada, from 15 to 17 June 1995 (A/50/254-S/1995/501);

(j) Letter dated 30 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/267);

(k) Letter dated 7 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the International Colloquium on Post-Conflict Reconstruction Strategies, held at Schlaining, Austria, on 23 and 24 June 1995 (A/50/345);

(l) Note verbale dated 5 September 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Communiqué and the Declaration of Principles on Tourism, Trade and Transportation and Plan of Action issued at the Inaugural Summit of the Association of Caribbean States, held at Port-of-Spain on 17 and 18 August 1995 (A/50/407);

(m) Letter dated 8 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Declaration of the Ninth Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, held at Quito on 4 and 5 September 1995 (A/50/425-S/1995/787);

(n) Letter dated 11 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/437);

(o) Letter dated 18 September 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the twenty-sixth South Pacific Forum, held at Madang, Papua New Guinea, from 3 to 15 September 1995 (A/50/475);

(p) Letter dated 22 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/483);

(q) Letter dated 9 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/523-S/1995/845);

(r) Letter dated 13 October 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/570);

(s) Letter dated 19 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Bariloche Declaration, adopted by the fifth Ibero-American Conference of Heads of State and Government, held at San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, on 16 and 17 October 1995 (A/50/673);

(t) Letter dated 23 October 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/675-S/1995/884);

(u) Letter dated 26 October 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/689-S/1995/890);

(v) Letter dated 30 October 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/707-S/1995/907);

(w) Letter dated 14 November 1995 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government, held at Auckland, New Zealand, from 10 to 13 November 1995 (A/50/758).

4. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-item 112 (a):

(a) Report of the Human Rights Committee (A/50/40); 1/

(b) Report of the Committee against Torture (A/50/44); 2/

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/50/469);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/50/472);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/50/512);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on financing and adequate staffing resources for the operations of the human rights treaty bodies (A/50/755);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the sixth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, held at Geneva from 18 to 22 September 1995 (A/50/505);

(h) Letter dated 30 January 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/75-E/1995/10);

(i) Letter dated 1 February 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/78-E/1995/11);

1/ To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/50/40).

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/50/44).

(j) Letter dated 8 March 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/93-E/1995/16);

(k) Letter dated 24 March 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/122-E/1995/18);

(l) Letter dated 18 April 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/160);

(m) Letter dated 25 April 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/164).

5. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-item 112 (b):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/50/452);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes (A/50/495);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/50/514);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (A/50/566);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the rule of law (A/50/653);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat (A/50/678);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the recommendations made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia on matters within his mandate (A/50/681);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights (A/50/681/Add.1);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism (A/50/685);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections (A/50/736);

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief (A/50/440);

(l) Note by the Secretary-General on the geographical composition and functions of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights (A/50/682);

(m) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (A/50/698);

(n) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Haiti (A/50/714);

(o) Note by the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/50/729);

(p) Letter dated 28 December 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/57);

(q) Letter dated 5 February 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/80);

(r) Letter dated 28 April 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/173);

(s) Letter dated 22 May 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/188);

(t) Letter dated 1 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/343);

(u) Letter dated 14 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the International Forum for Solidarity against Intolerance, for a Dialogue of Cultures, held at Tbilisi from 13 to 15 July 1995 (A/50/446);

(v) Letter dated 17 November 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/765-S/1995/967);

(w) Letter dated 27 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Istanbul Appeal approved by the participants of the special session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Symposium on Tolerance devoted to the theme of "Religions and Tolerance, held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 4 to 6 October 1995 (A/C.3/50/5);

(x) Letter dated 31 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/50/6).

6. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-item 112 (c):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia (A/50/329);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Kosovo (A/50/767);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/50/782);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (A/50/69-S/1995/79);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia entitled "Special report on the media" (A/50/71-S/1995/80);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (A/50/287-S/1995/575);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the former Yugoslavia (A/50/296-S/1995/597);

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the former Yugoslavia (A/50/441-S/1995/801);

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (A/50/558);

(j) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (A/50/567);

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/50/568);

(l) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (A/50/569);

(m) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/50/661);

(n) Note by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa (A/50/662);

(o) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Cuba (A/50/663);

(p) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting three reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Rwanda (A/50/709-S/1995/915);

(q) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (A/50/727-S/1995/933);

(r) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq (A/50/734);

(s) Letter dated 28 December 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/57);

(t) Letter dated 9 January 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/61-S/1995/16);

(u) Letter dated 7 February 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/81);

(v) Letter dated 7 March 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/92-E/1995/15);

(w) Letter dated 20 March 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/96);

(x) Letter dated 9 May 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/178);

(y) Letter dated 16 May 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/18[illegible]);

(z) Letter dated 1 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/207);

(aa) Letter dated 14 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/220);

(bb) Letter dated 30 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/268-S/1995/531);

(cc) Letter dated 3 July 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/269-S/1995/536);

(dd) Letter dated 12 July 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/281);

(ee) Letter dated 13 July 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/285-S/1995/573);

(ff) Letter dated 21 July 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/302-S/1995/594);

(gg) Letter dated 14 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/354-S/1995/696);

(hh) Letter dated 18 August 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/358-S/1995/712);

(ii) Letter dated 20 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/471);

(jj) Letter dated 29 November 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/789-S/1995/998);

(kk) Letter dated 13 November 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/50/9 and Corr.1);

(ll) Letter dated 22 November 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/50/10);

(mm) Letters dated 6 December 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/50/11 and 12).

7. The Committee also had before it, under sub-item 112 (d), report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/50/36).3/

8. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-item 112 (e):

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/50/36); 3/

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (A/50/743).

3/ To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/50/36).

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Report of the Third Committee (Part II)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed Yousif MOHAMED (Sudan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Human rights questions:
(a) Implementation of human rights instruments" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item jointly with sub-items 112 (b), (c), (d) and (e) at its 35th, 38th to 49th, 51st to 54th, 56th and 58th meetings, on 21, 24 and 27 to 30 November and on 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 14 December 1995. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/50/SR.35, 38-49, 51-54, 56 and 58).

3. For the documents before the Committee under this item, see document A/50/635.

4. At the 38th meeting, on 24 November, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/50/SR.38).

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* The report of the Committee on agenda item 112 will be issued in six parts under the symbol A/50/635 and Add.1-5.

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.39

5. At the 51st meeting, on 6 December, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Argentina, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Tunisia, Turkey and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families" (A/C.3/50/L.39). Subsequently, Yemen joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 53rd meeting, on 11 December, the Secretary of the Committee read out corrections to the draft resolution. The Committee then adopted draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.39, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.47 and Rev.1

7. On 5 December, a draft resolution was submitted by Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden, entitled "Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights" (A/C.3/50/L.47), which read:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "Recalling its resolution 49/178 of 23 December 1994, as well as other relevant resolutions,
>
> "Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, 1/
>
> "Welcoming the call in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action both for intensified efforts to integrate the equal status and the human rights of all women and girls into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activities and to address these issues regularly and systematically throughout relevant bodies and mechanisms, and for the related actions to be taken by, inter alia, the human rights treaty monitoring bodies, 2/

1/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

2/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, paras. 221 and 231.

"Reaffirming that the full and effective implementation of United Nations human rights instruments is indispensable to the efforts of the Organization, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 3/ to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

"Considering that the effective functioning of the treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments is indispensable for the full and effective implementation of such instruments,

"Conscious of the importance of coordination of the human rights promotion and protection activities of the United Nations bodies active in the field of human rights,

"Noting with appreciation the initiatives taken by a number of treaty bodies to elaborate early warning measures and urgent procedures with a view to preventing the occurrence, or reoccurrence, of serious human rights violations,

"Recalling the reports of the five meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, held from 1988 to 1994,

"Expressing concern that the massive underresourcing of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat seriously impedes the human rights treaty bodies in their ability to carry out their mandates effectively,

"Also expressing concern about the non-fulfilment by many States parties of their financial obligations under the relevant United Nations instruments on human rights,

"Reaffirming its responsibility to ensure the effective functioning of human rights treaty bodies established pursuant to instruments adopted by the General Assembly and, in this connection, further reaffirming the importance of:

"(a) Ensuring the effective functioning of systems of periodic reporting by States parties to these instruments;

"(b) Securing sufficient financial, human and other resources to overcome existing difficulties with their effective functioning;

"(c) Promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness through better coordination of the activities of the United Nations bodies active in the field of human rights;

"(d) Addressing questions of both reporting obligations and financial implications whenever elaborating any further instruments on human rights;

3/ Resolution 217 A (III).

"1. Welcomes the report of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their sixth meeting, held at Geneva from 18 to 22 September 1995, 4/ and endorses their conclusions and recommendations;

"2. Emphasizes the need to ensure financing and adequate staff and other resources for the operations of the human rights treaty bodies and, with this in mind:

"(a) Reiterates its request that the Secretary-General provide adequate financial resources in respect of each treaty body;

"(b) Calls upon the Secretary-General to make the most efficient use of existing staff and other resources and to take all appropriate measures to provide additional resources to give the treaty bodies adequate administrative support, access to technical expertise and access to appropriate databases and on-line information services;

"(c) Requests that the Secretary-General report on this question to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

"3. Welcomes the Plan of Action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and encourages States to contribute to its realization;

"4. Urges States parties to notify the Secretary-General, as depository of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 5/ and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 6/ of their acceptance of the amendments approved by the States parties and the General Assembly in its resolution 48/120;

"5. Calls upon all States parties to fulfil without delay and in full their financial obligations, including their arrears, under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment until the amendments enter into force;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure that the two committees established under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment meet as scheduled until the amendments enter into force;

4/ A/50/505, annex.

5/ Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

6/ Resolution 39/46, annex.

"7. Welcomes the continuing efforts by the treaty bodies and the Secretary-General aimed at streamlining, rationalizing and otherwise improving reporting procedures, and urges the treaty bodies and the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies to continue to examine ways of reducing the duplication of reporting required under the different instruments, without impairing the quality of reporting, and of generally reducing the reporting burden on Member States, including through:

"(a) Identifying where cross-referencing can be used in report writing;

"(b) Recommending, where appropriate, the designation of specific national administrative units to coordinate reports to all treaty bodies;

"(c) Establishing coordination between the treaty bodies and the International Labour Organization to identify overlap between their respective instruments and conventions;

"(d) Considering the utility of single comprehensive reports and of replacing periodic reports with specifically tailored reports and thematic reports;

"8. Urges States parties to contribute, individually and through meetings of States parties, to identifying and implementing ways of further streamlining, rationalizing and otherwise improving reporting procedures;

"9. Looks forward to the finalization of the interim report of the independent expert on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of the human rights treaty system 7/ in time for the final report to be considered by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session;

"10. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure from within existing resources, that the revision of the United Nations Manual on Human Rights Reporting is completed as soon as possible, that the revised Manual is available in all official languages at the earliest opportunity, and that due regard is paid to the recommendations concerning the Manual made by the fifth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies;

"11. Expresses concern about the increasing backlog of reports on implementation by States parties to United Nations instruments on human rights and about delays in consideration of reports by the treaty bodies, and again urges States parties to make every effort to meet their reporting obligations;

7/ A/CONF.157/PC/62/Add.11/Rev.1.

"12. Invites States parties which have been unable to comply with the requirements to submit their initial report to avail themselves of technical assistance;

"13. Welcomes the efforts of the human rights treaty bodies to monitor the implementation of human rights treaty undertakings by States parties that consistently do not comply with their reporting obligations;

"14. Urges States parties to address, as a matter of priority, at their next scheduled meetings, the issue of States parties consistently not complying with their reporting obligations;

"15. Urges all States parties whose reports have been examined by treaty bodies to provide adequate follow-up to the observations and final comments of the treaty bodies on their reports;

"16. Welcomes the emphasis placed by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and by the Commission on Human Rights on the importance of technical assistance and advisory services and, to this end:

"(a) Welcomes the plans of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report regularly to the Commission on possible technical assistance projects identified by the treaty bodies;

"(b) Encourages the treaty bodies to continue to identify possibilities for technical assistance in the regular course of their work of reviewing the periodic reports of States parties;

"17. Encourages the human rights treaty bodies to urge each State party to translate, publish and make widely available in its territory the full text of the concluding observations on its reports to the treaty-monitoring bodies, and requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to make every effort to ensure that recent reports and the summary records of committee discussions pertaining to them, as well as concluding observations and final comments of the treaty bodies, are made available in the United Nations information centres in the countries submitting those reports;

"18. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to explore means to publish at the end of each year, from within existing resources, as a separate volume, a compilation of all concluding observations adopted during that year by treaty bodies;

"19. Welcomes the contribution to the work of the human rights treaty bodies made by the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, and invites the specialized agencies, other United Nations bodies and the treaty bodies to continue to pursue further cooperation between them, bearing in mind the responsibilities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

"20. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to consult the human rights treaty bodies in his efforts to promote

cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations for the promotion and protection of human rights;

"21. Recognizes the important role played by non-governmental organizations in the effective implementation of all human rights instruments and encourages the Secretary-General to facilitate the exchange of information between the human rights treaty bodies and such organizations;

"22. Endorses the recommendation of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that each treaty body, in its examination of States reports, assiduously investigate compliance by States parties with the extensive obligations regarding human rights education and the provision of public information on human rights;

"23. Welcomes the emphasis by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that the enjoyment of the human rights of women should be closely monitored by each treaty body within the competence of its mandate, and approves their endorsement of recommendations proposed by the expert group on the integration of gender perspectives into United Nations human rights activities and programmes that met at Geneva from 3 to 7 July 1995; 8/

"24. Encourages the human rights treaty bodies to continue to develop mechanisms for the prevention of violations of human rights;

"25. Welcomes all appropriate measures the human rights treaty bodies may take, within their mandates, in response to situations of massive human rights violations, including bringing those violations to the attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary-General and the competent bodies of the United Nations in the field of human rights, and requests the High Commissioner, acting within his mandate, to coordinate and consult throughout the United Nations system in this regard;

"26. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on measures taken to implement the present resolution and on obstacles to its implementation;

"27. Decides to continue giving priority consideration, at its fifty-first session, to the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies, in the light of the deliberations of the Commission on Human Rights, under the item entitled 'Human rights questions'."

8. At the 56th meeting, on 13 December, the representative of Canada, on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the

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8/ A/50/505, para. 34.

Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden, introduced a revised draft resolution entitled "Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights" (A/C.3/50/L.47/Rev.1). Subsequently, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

9. At the 58th meeting, on 14 December, the representative of Canada revised the revised draft resolution as follows:

(a) A new preambular paragraph was inserted between the third and fourth preambular paragraphs. It reads:

"Noting the recommendations proposed by the expert group on the integration of gender perspectives into United Nations human rights activities and programmes that met at Geneva from 3 to 7 July 1995";

(b) In operative paragraph 17, the words "that urges" were replaced by the words "that treaty bodies urge";

(c) In operative paragraph 22, the words "noting the recommendations proposed by the expert group on the integration of gender perspectives into United Nations human rights activities and programmes that met at Geneva from 3 to 7 July 1995" were deleted.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted revised draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.47/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.53

11. At the 52nd meeting, on 8 December, the representative of Norway, on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belarus, Canada, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights" (A/C.3/50/L.53). Subsequently, Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. At the 54th meeting, on 11 December, the representative of Norway revised the draft resolution by deleting the words "i.e., the need to take into account the specific need and situation of women" after the words "the gender perspective" in operative paragraph 6.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.53, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution III).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

14. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming once more the permanent validity of the principles and norms set forth in the basic instruments regarding the international protection of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 9/ the International Covenants on Human Rights, 10/ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 11/ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 12/ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 13/

Bearing in mind the principles and norms established within the framework of the International Labour Organization and the importance of the work done in connection with migrant workers and members of their families in other specialized agencies and in various organs of the United Nations,

Reiterating that, despite the existence of an already established body of principles and norms, there is a need to make further efforts to improve the situation and to guarantee respect for the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers and members of their families,

Aware of the situation of migrant workers and members of their families and the marked increase in migratory movements that has occurred, especially in certain parts of the world,

Considering that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 14/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, all States are urged to guarantee the protection of the human rights of all migrant workers and members of their families,

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9/ Resolution 217 A (III).

10/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

11/ Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

12/ Resolution 38/180, annex.

13/ Resolution 44/25, annex.

14/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Underlining the importance of the creation and promotion of conditions to foster greater harmony and tolerance between migrant workers and the rest of the society of the State in which they reside, with the aim of eliminating the growing manifestations of racism and xenophobia taking place in segments of many societies and perpetrated by individuals or groups against migrant workers,

Recalling its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

Bearing in mind that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, States are invited to consider the possibility of signing and ratifying the Convention at the earliest possible time,

Recalling that, in its resolution 49/175 of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fiftieth session a report on the status of the Convention,

1. Expresses its deep concern at the growing manifestations of racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination and inhuman or degrading treatment directed against migrant workers in different parts of the world;

2. Welcomes the signature or ratification of, or accession to, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by some Member States;

3. Calls upon all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and expresses the hope that it will enter into force at an early date;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the promotion of the Convention through the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;

5. Invites the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on and promoting understanding of the Convention;

6. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General 15/ and requests him to submit to it at its fifty-first session an updated report on the status of the Convention;

7. Decides to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its fifty-first session under the sub-item entitled "Implementation of human rights instruments".

15/ A/50/469.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/178 of 23 December 1994, as well as other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, 16/

Welcoming the call in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action both for intensified efforts to integrate the equal status and the human rights of all women and girls into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activities and to address these issues regularly and systematically throughout relevant bodies and mechanisms, and for the related actions to be taken by, inter alia, the human rights treaty monitoring bodies, 17/

Noting the recommendations proposed by the expert group on the integration of gender perspectives into United Nations human rights activities and programmes, which met at Geneva from 3 to 7 July 1995, 18/

Reaffirming that the full and effective implementation of United Nations human rights instruments is of major importance to the efforts of the Organization, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 19/ to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that the effective functioning of the treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments is indispensable for the full and effective implementation of such instruments,

Conscious of the importance of coordination of the human rights promotion and protection activities of the United Nations bodies active in the field of human rights,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives taken by a number of treaty bodies to elaborate early-warning measures and urgent procedures, within their

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16/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

17/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, paras. 221 and 231.

18/ A/50/505, para. 34.

19/ Resolution 217 A (III).

mandates, with a view to preventing the occurrence, or reoccurrence, of serious human rights violations,

Recalling the reports of the five meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, held from 1988 to 1994,

Expressing concern about the non-fulfilment by many States parties of their financial obligations under the relevant United Nations instruments on human rights,

Also expressing concern that the underresourcing of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat is one impediment to the human rights treaty bodies in their ability to carry out their mandates effectively,

Reaffirming its responsibility to ensure the effective functioning of human rights treaty bodies established pursuant to instruments adopted by the General Assembly and, in this connection, further reaffirming the importance of:

(a) Ensuring the effective functioning of the periodic reporting by States parties to these instruments;

(b) Securing sufficient financial, human and information resources to overcome existing difficulties with their effective functioning;

(c) Promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness through better coordination of the activities of the United Nations bodies active in the field of human rights, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping of their mandates and tasks;

(d) Addressing questions of both reporting obligations and financial implications whenever elaborating any further instruments on human rights,

1. Welcomes the report of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their sixth meeting, held at Geneva from 18 to 22 September 1995, 20/ and takes note of their conclusions and recommendations;

2. Emphasizes the need to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the operations of the human rights treaty bodies and, with this in mind:

(a) Reiterates its request that the Secretary-General provide adequate resources in respect of each treaty body;

(b) Calls upon the Secretary-General to make the most efficient use of existing resources and to seek the resources necessary to give the treaty bodies adequate administrative support, access to technical expertise and access to appropriate databases and on-line information services;

20/ A/50/505, annex.

(c) Requests that the Secretary-General report on this question to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

3. Welcomes efforts to identify measures for more effective implementation of the United Nations human rights instruments, and, in this regard, takes note with interest of the Plan of Action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

4. Urges States parties to notify the Secretary-General, as depository of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 21/ and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 22/ of their acceptance of the amendments approved by the States parties and the General Assembly in its resolution 48/120;

5. Calls upon all States parties to fulfil without delay and in full their financial obligations, including their arrears, under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment until the amendments enter into force;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure that the two committees established under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment meet as scheduled until the amendments enter into force;

7. Welcomes the continuing efforts by the treaty bodies and the Secretary-General aimed at streamlining, rationalizing and otherwise improving reporting procedures, and urges the treaty bodies and the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies to continue to examine ways of reducing the duplication of reporting required under the different instruments, without impairing the quality of reporting, and of generally reducing the reporting burden on Member States, including through:

(a) Identifying where cross-referencing can be used in report writing;

(b) Recommending, where appropriate, the designation of specific national administrative units to coordinate reports to all treaty bodies;

(c) Establishing coordination between the treaty bodies and the International Labour Organization to identify overlap between their respective instruments and conventions;

21/ Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

22/ Resolution 39/46, annex.

(d) Considering the utility of single comprehensive reports and of replacing periodic reports with specifically tailored reports and thematic reports;

8. Urges States parties to contribute, individually and through meetings of States parties, to identifying and implementing ways of further streamlining, rationalizing, avoiding duplication in and otherwise improving reporting procedures;

9. Encourages the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with his mandate, to request the independent expert to finalize his interim report on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of the human rights treaty system 23/ in time for the final report to be considered by the Commission on Human Rights, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 48/120 of 20 December 1993, at its fifty-second session;

10. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure, from within existing resources, that the revision of the United Nations Manual on Human Rights Reporting is completed as soon as possible, that the revised Manual is available in all official languages at the earliest opportunity and that due regard is paid to the recommendations concerning the Manual made by the fifth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies;

11. Expresses concern about the increasing backlog of reports on implementation by States parties to United Nations instruments on human rights and about delays in consideration of reports by the treaty bodies, and again urges States parties to make every effort to meet their reporting obligations;

12. Invites States parties that have been unable to comply with the requirements to submit their initial report to avail themselves of technical assistance;

13. Encourages the efforts of the human rights treaty bodies to examine the progress made in achieving the fulfilment of human rights treaty undertakings by all States parties, without exception;

14. Urges States parties to address, as a matter of priority, at their next scheduled meetings, the issue of States parties consistently not complying with their reporting obligations;

15. Urges all States parties whose reports have been examined by treaty bodies to provide adequate follow-up to the observations and final comments of the treaty bodies on their reports;

16. Welcomes the emphasis placed by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and by the Commission on Human Rights on the importance of technical assistance and advisory services, and, to this end:

23/ A/CONF.157/PC/62/Add.11/Rev.1.

(a) Welcomes the plans of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report regularly to the Commission on possible technical assistance projects identified by the treaty bodies;

(b) Encourages the treaty bodies to continue to identify possibilities for technical assistance in the regular course of their work of reviewing the periodic reports of States parties;

17. Also welcomes the recommendation by the meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that treaty bodies urge each State party to translate, publish and make widely available in its territory the full text of the concluding observations on its reports to the treaty-monitoring bodies, and requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to make every effort to ensure that recent reports and the summary records of committee discussions pertaining to them, as well as concluding observations and final comments of the treaty bodies, are made available in the United Nations information centres in the countries submitting those reports;

18. Welcomes the contribution to the work of the human rights treaty bodies made by the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, and invites the specialized agencies, other United Nations bodies and the treaty bodies to continue to pursue further cooperation between them, bearing in mind the responsibilities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the desirability of avoiding unnecessary duplication;

19. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to consult the human rights treaty bodies in his efforts to promote cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations where appropriate for the promotion and protection of human rights;

20. Recognizes the important role played by non-governmental organizations in the effective implementation of all human rights instruments and encourages the exchange of information between the human rights treaty bodies and such organizations;

21. Endorses the recommendation of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that each treaty body, in its examination of States' reports, place emphasis on the implementation by States parties of their obligations regarding human rights education and the provision of public information on human rights;

22. Welcomes the emphasis by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that the enjoyment of the human rights of women should be closely monitored by each treaty body within the competence of its mandate;

23. Also welcomes all appropriate measures the human rights treaty bodies may take, within their mandates, in response to situations of massive human rights violations, including bringing those violations to the attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary-General and the competent bodies of the United Nations in the field of human rights, and requests the High Commissioner, acting within his mandate, to coordinate and consult throughout the United Nations system in this regard;

24. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on measures taken to implement the present resolution and on obstacles to its implementation;

25. Decides to continue giving priority consideration, at its fifty-first session, to the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies, in the light of the deliberations of the Commission on Human Rights, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

International Covenants on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/119 of 20 December 1993, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/22 of 24 February 1995,

Mindful that the International Covenants on Human Rights 24/ constitute the first all-embracing and legally binding international treaties in the field of human rights and, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 25/ form the core of the International Bill of Human Rights,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 26/

Noting that many States Members of the United Nations have yet to become parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and reaffirming that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interrelated and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of the other rights,

Recognizing the important role of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

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24/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

25/ Resolution 217 A (III).

26/ A/50/472.

Welcoming the submission to the General Assembly of the annual report of the Human Rights Committee 27/ and the reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Considering that the effective functioning of treaty bodies established in accordance with the relevant provisions of international instruments on human rights plays a fundamental role and hence represents an important continuing concern of the United Nations,

Noting with concern the critical situation with regard to overdue reports from States parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

1. Reaffirms the importance of the International Covenants on Human Rights as major parts of international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. Appeals strongly to all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as to accede to the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to make the declaration provided for in its article 41;

3. Invites the Secretary-General to intensify systematic efforts to encourage States to become parties to the Covenants and, through the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, to assist such States, at their request, in ratifying or acceding to the Covenants and to the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

4. Emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, where applicable, the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

5. Stresses the importance of avoiding the erosion of human rights by derogation, and underlines the necessity of strict observance of the agreed conditions and procedures for derogation under article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, bearing in mind the need for States parties to provide the fullest possible information during states of emergency, so that the justification for the appropriateness of measures taken in these circumstances can be assessed;

6. Stresses the importance of fully taking into account the gender perspective in the implementation of the Covenants at the national level, including the national reports, and in the work of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

27/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/50/40).

7. Encourages the States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations they lodge to the International Covenants on Human Rights, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the relevant treaty or otherwise contrary to international law;

8. Also encourages the States parties to review regularly any reservations made in respect of the provisions of the International Covenants on Human Rights with a view to withdrawing them;

9. Takes note with appreciation of the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions;

10. Also takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its tenth and eleventh sessions;

11. Expresses its satisfaction with the serious and constructive manner in which both Committees are carrying out their function;

12. Invites the Committees to identify specific needs of States parties that might be addressed through the Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Programme of the Centre for Human Rights, with the possible participation of members of the Committees where appropriate;

13. Welcomes the continuing efforts of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to strive for uniform standards in the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Human Rights, and appeals to other bodies dealing with similar human rights questions to respect these uniform standards, as expressed in the general comments of the Human Rights Committee;

14. Urges States parties to fulfil in good time such reporting obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights as may be requested and in their reports to make use of gender-disaggregated data;

15. Also urges States parties to take duly into account, in implementing the provisions of the Covenants, the observations made at the conclusion of the consideration of their reports by the Human Rights Committee and by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

16. Invites States parties to give particular attention to the dissemination at the national level of the reports they have submitted to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the summary records relating to the examination of those reports by the Committees and the observations made by the Committees at the conclusion of the consideration of the reports;

17. Encourages once again all Governments to publish the texts of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in as many local

languages as possible and to distribute them and make them known as widely as possible in their territories;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to consider ways and means of assisting States parties to the Covenants in the preparation of their reports, including seminars or workshops at the national level for the purpose of training government officials engaged in the preparation of such reports, and the exploration of other possibilities available under the regular programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;

19. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat effectively assists the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the implementation of their respective mandates;

20. Once again urges the Secretary-General, taking into account the suggestions of the Human Rights Committee, to take determined steps to give more publicity to the work of that Committee and, similarly, to the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, under the item entitled "Human rights questions", a report on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including all reservations and declarations.